

• Abroad •

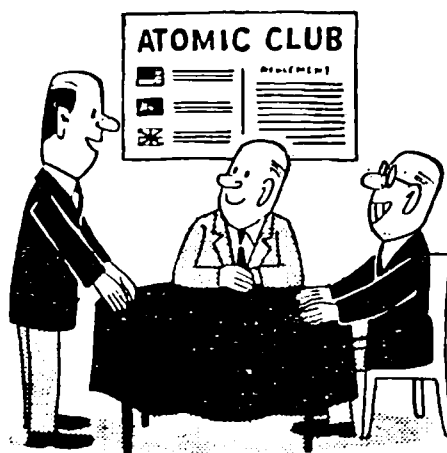
Tel Aviv. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion did not journey to the United States, via London, merely to receive an honorary degree, appear on TV, and lunch with the President. His mission was to convince the British and American leaders that the Soviet buildup of Arab arms is reaching a dangerous level, and that it must be balanced by supplying Israel with more, and in particular more advanced, weapons. Egypt, already possessed of several squadrons of IL-28 bombers (of which Iraq also has one squadron), is about to get the much superior TU-16's. The Egyptian and Iraqi fighter squadrons are to be upgraded by replacing MIG-17's with MIG-19's. Egypt is now getting T-54 instead of T-34 tanks, and its submarine force is up to nine. Israel insists that to preserve Mideast stability her own fighter squadrons must be upgraded with planes of the order of the U.S. Starfighter, French Mirage III or British Lightning, and that she needs tanks more advanced than her Shermans.

West Berlin. When Soviet representatives grind their teeth over "imperialist, counter-revolutionary agitation" issuing from West Berlin, they doubtless have first in mind the radio emissions, soon to be paralleled by powerful new TV transmitters, that have been blanketing East Germany since 1947 from U.S.-supported RIAS. Close behind in the Communist proscription list is *Tarantel*, an agency operating from West Berlin that for several years has used East German visitors to the city as distributors for millions of copies of leaflets, magazines, newsletters, cartoons, satires and occasional books, directed at the average East German. *Tarantel* is run by Heinz Wenzel, who calls himself Henry Bear (from the bear rampant in Berlin's coat of arms). Not only do leading West German writers and cartoonists contribute, but a group of East German artists smuggle satirical works to Henry Bear, who publishes them under the collective signature, "Kalfa."

London. Sir Alan Herbert has introduced a bill in Parliament that would give writers a small percentage of lending library charges on loans of books, thus applying the same principle that is used for musical works, plays and most movies. This is the first Parliamentary motion of the twentieth century that has won the unanimous support of every British author, white, black and brown, from Tories to Anarchists.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For the next phase in its expanding penetration of Africa, Moscow is establishing two major bases: in infant Guinea, for the western salient; in 3,000-year-old Ethiopia, to the east. The framework for the Ethiopian structure was blueprinted during Haile Selassie's visit to Moscow last June. The Kremlin promised a huge "unconditioned" aid program and Soviet money and personnel have been pouring in since that time.

Around the Soviet Embassy, located on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, forty or more acres have been fenced with barbed wire. A technical college, staffed with Russians, is soon to be constructed, and will turn out Communist-indoctrinated technicians for continental as well as national operations. Meanwhile, as the oldest black African nation, Ethiopia—ignoring the fact that its abysmal poverty and primitiveness is not much of an advertisement for the merits of native African rule—is setting itself up as leader of the pan-African independence drive.



Carrefour

We must disarm by degrees. For a starter, let's ban French atomic tests.

United Nations. The move to force a special session of the UN General Assembly, nominally to consider a protest against the French A-bomb test, is developing as a major anti-Western campaign. Dag Hammarskjold must call the session if demanded by a simple majority (42) of the Assembly. Twenty-seven of the 29 members of the Afro-Asian bloc (Turkey and Laos only excepted) are already lined up. The votes of Yugoslavia and of the nine-member Soviet bloc are of course certain. Castro is counted on, and may be joined by Panama and Venezuela. Thus two or three of the smaller European nations, such as Finland and Ireland, would be enough to tip the balance.

Inverness, Scotland. In spite of its prosperity as "capital of the Highlands," now swelling with tourists brought by Britain's new automobiles, Inverness has shown no signs of forsaking its Sabbatarian tradition in the face of a "brighter Sundays" campaign. The town council has just reaffirmed its refusal to open bowling greens, tennis courts or other sports grounds on Sundays. All pubs and cinemas are closed as tight as Scottish bank vaults. A proposal for a "Sunday social club" for young people has been firmly rejected. In the wards of Raigmore Hospital no Sunday radio or TV is allowed. Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod, present chieftain of all the MacLeods, who protested this deprivation while lately hospitalized with a broken leg, has been consigned in a letter from Sabbatarians "to undying torments in the lowest depths of Hell" (as she reported the text). Outside one prominent church, a poster reads: "If your conscience has good brakes your character will never skid."

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